

families. But in towns, populated in great measure by those who had cut themselves adrift from home and tradition, respect for the aristocracy could hardly survive. Men to whom family connections were a matter of indifference, could not be expected to understand that distinctions of family were in themselves sufficient to support the authority of a senate. Between aristocracy and democracy a struggle commenced, in which the king assisted sometimes one side, sometimes the other, and was gradually shorn of his authority by both antagonists.

The masses that now became a power in the State generally represented a subject people that had been conquered by the ancestors of the king and the aristocracy. In southern Europe their blood has been mainly that of a short-statured, dark complexioned race, of keen sensibility and high artistic talent which has been settled along the northern shores of the Mediterranean since the earliest days that the archaeologists' spade has revealed to us. But in all probability they also possessed some admixture of northern blood, derived from waves of invasion which from time immemorial had flowed over them. The ruling classes which had established themselves in most parts of Greece and in Upper Italy at the commencement of classical history represented the

last of these invasions. The Dorians of
Sparta.
and the patricians of Rome held in
close subjection the helots and the plebeians; and
early Roman
history is in great part occupied with
the struggle
of the plebeians to secure social and
political en-
franchisement. The characteristics of
the French,

Known in classical times as Pelasgians in Greece,
as Ligurians
in Italy and the south of France, and as Iberians in
Spain.